FASHION INTERNATIONAL
NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION WORLD

APRIL 1987

FALL SWEATERS: COLORFULLY CAPTIVATING

REVIEWED:

FALL SWEATERS

MILAN:
FALL/WINTER

LONDON:
FALL/WINTER

FINE JEWELRY

"DENIM FAST
FORWARD"

Sweater designs for Fall '87 whimsically incorporate colors and patterns with lengths that vary from cropped to tunic. Yarns are lush in sumptuous blends of wool, lurex, silk cashmere and cotton while the trend is towards "hand-loomed." Textured intarsias form tapestry florals and graphic designs in sophisticated tonal combinations. Colors are brilliant in true primary hues, and animals the major influence in novelties.

The menagerie: ROBERTA FROST creates an intarsia of a lurex cat on the hood of an old car. Her all wool crews and cardigans also include "animal tapestry" and a bespectacled hound. ICEBERG sweaters depict realistic white polar bears on a grey wool ground and not-so-realistic, ice-skating elephants. MALGARI prefers the elephant in a violet and grey lurex blend on a white turtleneck. A horse with flowing loose main adorns a long, black polo by KIELO AMERICA; and LJILJANA takes fantasy a step further with a mythical unicorn captured in a wool crew.

The geometrics: WILD WOOLIES shows modern art sensibility with an elegar wool pullover in a small gage teal, patterned with large neutral circles and centered with vibrant purple, orange and lime. GUISEPPE VERDI creat a geometric temple print in a black and white crew at COSMO SIRCHIO LTD. "Cut-out doll" patterns form horizontal stripes in green, purple, red, orange, gold and raspberry, 100% pima cotton by LA VICUNA. A rust, yellow, slate, black and cream jagged checkerboard intarsia updates a "British professor" shawl collar cardigan by LUCY WILMOT.

The midriffs: RENSO FABIANI II presents an all cotton, hand-knit croppec top with a chain-link trim in black/white or French blue/black. CAROL HORN's cotton boucle polo comes in cardinal, natural and charcoal. MALGARI trims the shoulder and seams of a cream knit top with brown leather laces; while ARTWORK crops turtle necks high in wool or cashmere-blues and greens. MARINA SPADAFORA's cropped "souffle texture" wool cardigans are in swirl designs of coco/white, navy/white and solids.

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MILAN FALL-WINTER 1987/88

Milanese RTW for Fall left many grumbling about a lack of freshness; for while a major fashion change appeared to be in the wind, the wind blew in a variety of directions and created not only excitement but confusion as well. The split was exemplified by Romeo Gigli (The Man of the Season) who showed spirited, youthful clothes; both at his own house and Callaghan; and Giorgio Armani, who epitomized what has always been synonymous with Milan: elegant, superbly tailored apparel.

Trends: Shapes... Natural shoulders, waist accentuated tunics and jackets, unconstructed and swing shaped coats and jackets. Skirts are short, trousers very slim or slightly cropped and fluid; jumpsuits. Fabrics... Wool jersey, fleece and brushed wool coats and jackets, shearling with sable or fisher collars, lace and fur trims and s-t-r-e-t-c-h fabrics. Accessories... Stoles in fur, leather or fabric, wide belts and sashes, flat shoes for day. Ethnics... paisley, tartan and tyrolean.

ROMEO GIGLI: short bubble, long hobble and full skirts, tight jersey dresses with sweetheart necklines, ruffle blouses, bubble hem and oval shaped coats, long shaped jackets, little bolero sweaters under suits or atop knit dresses, triple tiered skirts and close fit velvet tops for evening. Colors: Dark grey with touches of pink, black, brown, slate blue.

ROMEO GIGLI FOR CALLAGHAN: quilted wraps, body concealing coats, hip-tied kimono jackets over tiered skirts, paisley jackets, shawls and tapered pants, skinny jersey dresses, embroidered Peruvian motif skirts, Sari draped skirts, bulky patterned sweaters, skinny zip front tunics over slim skirts, tight jersey tops over gathered or ruffled taffeta skirts. Colors: Steel grey, eggplant, burnt sienna, amethyst, midnight blue, grey green, chocolate, poison green, orange, salmon.

GIORGIO ARMANI: single-breasted coats, soft small jackets with defined waists slightly flared over the hip, jackets fitted over the hip with matching cropped vests, single button jackets and fitted blazers, fluid and rolled under hem trousers, wrap, bloomer hem, divided and gathered waist skirts, cape-like shawls, bathrobe coats, sheer silk and silk crepe blouses, crew neck cashmere sweaters with long fluid skirts and coat dresses for evening. Colors: Chocolate, pale blue, military green, black & white, taupe, ecru, sand, cranberry, pomegranite, camel, charcoal, moss, dark brown and black for evening.

GIANNI VERSACE: short skirts with fitted through the hip and boxy blazers, long reefer coats, coat/cape combos, shearling and leather bomber jackets, cropped twin sets, skinny cocktail dresses, with cap sleeves, uneven panel and asymmetrical hemline skirts, long mesh dresses for evening. Colors: Black, red, military green, brown, orange, navy.

KARL LAGERFELD FOR FENDI: short swing, high yoked coats and jackets in wool or fur, oval shaped coats, slim flannel dresses and suits with fitted waists, shearling coats trimmed in sable and fisher, strapless fur dresses for evening. Colors: Black, red, navy, powder pink, sage green, brown, camel, beige, grey, pale colored furs.

MISSONI: short slim knit dresses, hooded bathrobe coats, small jackets over long skirts, rounded nipped waist jackets with flared hips over bell shaped skirts, trapeze cut sweaters over wide flared pants, short black evening sheaths, double cardigans over narrow plisse skirts. Colors: Avocado, amethyst, brick red, emerald, turquoise, purple, black, sage, grey.

LONDON FALL-WINTER 1987/88

Femininity is back... a froth of tulle, fluttering petticoats and whirling skirts are the message as hemlines rise. Emphasis is on body curves: waists accentuated, some high rise, hips are rounded, and shoulders natural. Except for Vivienne Westwood, most British designers are in a serious mood. The majority of their designs aren't meant to shock; however, sufficient individuality keeps London as a center of inventive fashion.

Fabrics... Harris and Irish tweeds, Tartans, two-ply cashmere, printed flannel, gabardine, loden cloth, denim, leather, irridescent and paper taffeta, silk, ottoman faille, panne velvet, silk jersey, crepe de chine, organza and tulle.
Colors... Oxblood, wine, ruby, forest green, chocolate and earthy browns, camel, taupe, aubergine, navy, teal, charcoal grey, washed and frosted grey, peach, robin's egg blue, cream, black and white. Evening brights: fuchsia, red, jade, purple and yellow.
Trends: Jackets...high cut, bolero, full smock, softly tailored and waist skimming. Skirts...whirl out in skating circles, flare above the knee or unfold in loops and drapes. Trousers...classic, narrow and cuffed, above the ankle. Coats...short, swing back trapeze, princess or A-line, long capes. Ethnic...Scottish folklore, Hungarian peasants, Cossacks, the Tyrol and Chinese workers.

VIVIENNE WESTWOOD-- crinolines with stiff wires giving skirts a full rounded look... short, long, tiered, bubbled, ruffled in everything from velvet to Harris tweeds. Shapes... navy pinafore dresses over white shirts, A-line coats with lame collars and cuffs; and black heart-shaped lapel jackets with jodphur pants; newest bodice cut like a corset with satin front and elasticized sides. Details: Harris tweed crowns with fake ermine and velvet trim, fake ermine capes and clunky shoes.

KATHERINE HAMNETT-- Black leather bustier dresses, black mini suits with ruffled hems, denim mini skirts, tartan jackets over velvet skirts. Shapes: A-line skirts, somber tailored "nanny" coats, fitted jackets, sheepskin lined bomber jackets over dress front shirts and jodphur pants. Details: White beaded and fringed denim, the white dress shirt and fringed black leather.

JEAN MUIR-- Long or short skirts, full but slim over the hips or draped, waist bands inset and raised, coats long and fitted or close to the body above the waist and full below, high waisted suit jackets over short slim or pleated skirts, hip-length pullovers over short knitted skirts, long matte jersey or brillant silk late-day dresses, black crepe evening suits with cropped flared pants. Details: Gentle peplums, few collars, stark simplicity.

JOHN GALLIANO-- A-line coats with asymmetric hemlines, gathered back wrapped skirts, high scoop neckline dresses, fitted coat dresses with cut away skirts, short double-breasted jumpers over white blouses. Details: Rosette effects on short cropped jackets, silk flower garlands draped on bodices, fitted jackets with Fortuny pleated sleeves and back yokes, tulip shaped skirts with petals flowing around the hem.

ALISTAIR BLAIR-- Short dresses in velvet and taffeta, ball gowns in pleated taffeta, slim or cropped trousers, Cossack bloomers. Shapes: tartan capes, swing jersey coats, belted jackets over full skirts. Details: Celtic jewelry, deep velvet button cuffs.

JASPER CONRAN-- Bias cut jersey dresses with to-the-knee petal skirts, trouser suits for day and evening, suede and lace over silk flutter skirts, strapless 50's evening dresses. Shapes... princess coats in cahsmere, lily-necked swing jackets with uncuffed trousers. Details: Hooded silk blouses, sailor collars, suede, leather and sheepskin with silk.

Emerging London Designers

LINDKA CIERACH, responsible for the Duchess of York's wedding dress-- first RTW collection is romantic and luxurious: cashmere and leather separates for day and grand chiffon velvet and handmade French lace for evening. GEORGINA GODLEY, formerly with Scott Crolla, showed innovative silk jersey and crepe-de-chine dresses. Her panne velvets are rubber printed on the reverse side, giving an effect of hand pleating; also unusual dresses of "baked silk" (silk is cooked at a certain temperature to puff out the fabric) with panne velvet sleeves.

FINE JEWELRY

Trends... Classic links in silver and gold, nature inspired leaves and petals, sofly rounded and swirl shapes, simple geometric forms, textural combinations: polished/matte or burnished finishes mixed together, unusually colored fresh water pale pearls in multi-strand combinations and gold and silver worn together

Silver... used alone or with stones in hollow tubes, links and cylinders, sculptured collars, silver and onyx in long length multi-strand beads, cuffs and hoop earrings; also in combination with pearl and turquoise. Gold... crinkled and folded textures, large link bracelets and chokers.

Earrings... large sculptured forms, oval and round buttons in plain metal or with colored gem stones, long drops in hoop, doorknocker and wand forms. Pins... bold shiny brooches, in whimsical shapes, geometrics, sculptural forms, and retro antique pieces.

Colors... ruby, sapphire, emerald, tanzanite, tourmaline, amethyst, blue topaz, citrine. Pink quartz used in stack rings or as centers surrounded by baguettes in large cocktail rings. Large color gemstone centers for gold and pearl chokers, studded colored gemstone cuffs and bangles and flexi bracelets.

"DENIM FAST FORWARD"-- 1946 TO 1987

American denim, featured in clothing, home furnishings and architecture, is on exhibit at F.I.T. through April 30. Sponsored by Scovill Apparel and F.I.T., the exhibition takes a whimsical and historical look at denim's influence on fashion.

1987 dominates much of the selection with all the industry biggies: Guess?, Oshkosh B'Gosh, Zena, Marithe & Francois Girbaud, Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren and, of course, Lee, Wrangler, and Levi Strauss. Thomas Thurnauer created innovative outfits from reconstructed denim, a growing theme this year, while the evening section had some interesting twists from Joan Vass, Isabel Toledo and Kenneth Bonavitacola.

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